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The Local Angle:

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A. PHILIP RANDOLPH RECEIVES AWARD FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

NEW YORK -- A. Philip Randolph, 85, long-time labor and civil rights leader, has received the Department of Labor's Award of Merit by Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan.

The award was presented in recognition of Randolph's "significant and outstanding contributions toward furthering the work of the Department of Labor 'to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States.'"

Randolph is president emeritus of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and a former vice president and member of the Executive Council, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Randolph has long been active in the apprenticeship outreach movement in the United States as a means of boosting minority participation in building and construction crafts.

The Labor Department has provided financial assistance to support this apprenticeship outreach effort since 1967 when the first contract was awarded to the Joint Apprenticeship Program.

This program was conducted jointly by the A. Philip Randolph Educational Fund and the Workers Defense League.

In the Spring 1972, the Joint Apprenticeship Program became R-T-P, Inc., (Recruitment and Training Program).

R-T-P, Inc., is operating under a $3,165,000 contract award from the Labor Department to support its program through August, 1975.

Operating in 26 locations, R-T-P, Inc., seeks to bring 2,300 youths, primarily minorities, into apprenticeships in the building and construction trades and to upgrade the skills of 395 journeymen for acceptance in labor unions.

Randolph, who received the Labor Department award at a City Hall ceremony here, also received the city's Bronze Medallion.

# # #

OIC GETS LABOR DEPARTMENT FUNDS TO AID LOCAL UNITS

WASHINGTON -- Opportunities Industralization Centers (OIC) of America, Inc., has been awarded a $2.2 million contract to help its local affiliates operate manpower programs, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan announced.

OIC, headed by the Rev. Leon Sullivan with national headquarters in Philadelphia, is a black-oriented manpower and social action organization with more than 100 local centers.

Another minority-oriented organization, Jobs for Progress, Inc./ Operation SER, with about 40 local affiliates, received $1,375,000.

The one-year contracts for both groups are authorized under Title III provisions of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) of 1973 to provide technical assistance and promotional support to the local units.

OIC and SER local units have been included in the plans of CETA prime sponsors (municipal or county governmental units) to offer a variety of manpower services, primarily to disadvantaged jobless workers from minority groups. Prime sponsors provide the basic funds for local OIC and SER units to operate.

# # #

Week of November 4, 1974

JOB PLACEMENTS FOR BLACKS UP 12 PERCENT
IN FISCAL 1974, LABOR DEPARTMENT REPORTS

WASHINGTON -- There were about 782,000 blacks placed in jobs by federal-state employment service offices during the 1974 fiscal year, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan reported.

The placement of blacks represents a 12 percent increase over the previous year.

On a national basis, Brennan said the total number of persons placed in jobs was 3,334,000.

This was 300,000 more than the previous year, representing a 10 percent increase over 1973.

Brennan said the toal placement figures for minority group members was 1,113,000, or about 30 percent of the national total.

About 885,200 persons categorized as poor were placed in jobs, a few thousand more than the previous year.

Brennan said youths 22 years of age and under placed in jobs by the public employment service during the 1974 fiscal year numbered 1,386,000, or 42 percent of all individuals placed, a 19 percent increase from the previous year's total. Youths also made up 51 percent of all enrollees in job training during 1974.

Women placed in jobs totaled 1,338,000 an increase of 14 percent over the previous year. This compares to 1,996,000 men placed in jobs during 1974, a rise of 8 percent over the previous year.

A total of 355,100 individuals 45 and over obtained jobs through the public employment service in 1974, about the same as the number placed the previous year.

(MORE)

A total of 393,400 Vietnam-era veterans found jobs through the employment service, slightly fewer than the year before.

The employment service placed 209,900 handicapped people, about 4,000 more than the previous year.

The federal-state employment service functions on a nationwide basis through 52 state and territorial public employment service agencies and their 2,400 local offices, with an overall budget for the current fiscal year of more than $450 million.

Brennan said the employment service "has been a mainstay for small companies which do not have the time or staff to locate, screen and test job applicants on their own."

# # #

8,900 OLDER WORKERS TO GET JOBS, TRAINING; LABOR DEPARTMENT ALLOCATES $19.9 MILLION

WASHINGTON -- Employment and training services for 8,900 low-income, elderly persons will continue under a $19.9 million allocation announced by Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan.

Brennan said funds from the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) were distributed to five national contractors to continue operation employment projects in 47 states. All national contractors are headquartered in Washington, D.C.

The organizations and the amount of CETA Title III funds are:

-- Green Thumb, Inc., $7,363,872;

-- National Council on the Aging, $2,321,128;

-- National Council of Senior Citizens, $4,750,000;

-- National Retired Teachers Association-American Association of Retired Persons, $3,797,793; and

-- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, $1,672,500.

Each of the contractors provides a variety of work experience occupations in the public sector, mostly beautification and restoration work, although work in libraries, schools, hospitals, and other municipal and county agencies will also be available.

# # #

OSHA ISSUES AUGUST FIGURES ON JOB SAFETY AND HEALTH INSPECTIONS

WASHINGTON -- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the U.S. Department of Labor conducted 7,354 inspections during August, an increase over the previous month's inspection activity.

The August total is 2,000 higher than July and some 1,000 inspections more than in August of last year.

Assistant Secretary of Labor John H. Stender, who heads the federal job safety and health agency, said these increases reflect OSHA's emphasis on greater inspection totals with no sacrifice in quality.

Stender said August's inspection activity resulted in the issuance to employers of 4,979 citations alleging 25,500 violations of job safety and health standards. Proposed penalties totaled $684,880.

From April 28, 1971, through August 1974, OSHA made 172,206 inspections resulting in 115,037 citations alleging 592,693 violations, with proposed penalties totaling $14,888,338. Of that amount, $10,914,051 has been remitted to the Secretary of the Treasury. The balance represents funds not yet collected, plus penalties proposed by OSHA that were reduced or vacated by order of the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission after employer appeals.

# # #

REAL EARNINGS IN SEPTEMBER 1974

REAL EARNINGS IN SEPTEMBER 1974

WASHINGTON -- Real earnings of workers on production or nonsupervisory jobs in the private nonfarm sector of the American economy increased from August to September, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported.

Real earnings, or earnings in constant dollars, are calculated by adjusting earnings in current dollars for changes in the Consumer Price Index. The figures are preliminary ones.

Real gross average weekly earnings increased 0.2 percent from August to September, after allowance for the usual seasonal change.

This increase was the result of a 0.9 percent increase in average hourly earnings and a 0.5 percent rise in average weekly hours which combined to cause average weekly earnings to rise somewhat faster than the 1.2 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Over the year, real average weekly earnings were down 4.5 percent. A rise of 8.3 percent in average hourly earnings was more than offset by a 12.1 percent increase in consumer prices as well as 1.1 percent decrease in average weekly hours.

Before adjustment for the increase in the Consumer Price Index and for seasonal change, average weekly earnings were $159.41 in September, compared with $148.83 a year earlier.

Real spendable earnings (real weekly pay after deduction of Social Security and Federal income taxes) for a worker who was earning the average weekly pay and was taxed at rates applicable to a married worker with three dependents posted a seasonally adjusted increase of 0.1 percent from August. The August level was the lowest since December 1970.

Over the year, real spendable earnings were down 5.2 percent owing to the 4.5 percent decline in real weekly earnings and a 0.8 percent increase in the effect of taxes.

The Hourly Earnings Index in dollars of constant purchasing power was 106.7 in September, seasonally adjusted, 0.3 percent lower than in August. Compared with a year ago, the index is 2.9 percent lower. The index excludes the effects of overtime in manufacturing and of interindustry shifts, such as the shift of workers between high-wage and low-wage industries.

# # #

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX--SEPTEMBER 1974

WASHINGTON -- The Consumer Price Index rose 1.1 percent in September to 151.9 (1967=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported.

The rise was due to higher prices for a wide range of consumer goods and services, notably meats, apparel commodities, and mortgage interest costs. Prices declined for a few items, particularly fresh fruits and vegetables and gasoline.

The September CPI was 12.1 percent higher than a year ago.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the rise in the September CPI of 1.2 percent was about the same as in August. The food index rose more in September than in August after seasonal adjustment--1.9 percent compared with 1.4 percent, while the index for nonfood commodities increased less--1.0 percent in September, compared with 1.5 percent in August.

The services index rose 1.1 percent in September, the same as in the preceding month.

For the calendar quarter ended in September, the CPI increased at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 14.2 percent. This was up from the 10.9 percent annual rate in the second quarter and the same as the first quarter's pace.

Food prices, which rose at a 3.1 percent annual rate in the second quarter, increased at a 12.3 percent annual rate in the third quarter as prices of meats, poultry, and eggs rose following declines in the second quarter.

The nonfood commodities index rose at an annual rate of 16.5 percent in the 3 months ended in September, marking the third consecutive quarter

(MORE)

in which the increase has been at about this rate. Although gasoline prices declined and price rises for fuel oil and used cars moderated, prices for a wide range of other nonfood commodities increased at a faster pace in the third quarter than in the second.

The services index rose at a 13.9 percent annual rate in the calendar quarter ended in September, continuing an acceleration evident since the beginning of the year.

The index of food purchased in grocery stores--which usually declines in September--rose 1.5 percent. With the exception of fresh fruits and vegetables, all major categories of food purchased in grocery stores increased. Beef and pork prices rose instead of declining and poultry prices, which are usually unchanged in September, also rose. Prices of dairy products increased for the first time in 4 months. Prices of fats and oil products rose sharply.

Prices continued to increase for other food items such as eggs, cereal and bakery products, processed fruits and vegetables, and sugar and sweets. Fresh fruit and vegetable prices showed their usual large seasonal decline.

The index for food away from home--restaurant meals and snacks--rose 0.7 percent.

The index for nonfood commodities rose 1.1 percent. About a fourth of the increase was due to higher prices for apparel commodities. In addition, there were large increases in prices of houses, housefurnishings, housekeeping supplies, toilet goods, reading materials, and alcoholic beverages.

(MORE)

New car prices increased slightly instead of declining substantially as they usually do at the end of the model year. Prices for used cars and fuel oil continued to rise but the increases were smaller than in recent months.

Gasoline prices declined for the second consecutive month.

The services index rose 1.1 percent in September. Over a fourth of this increase was due to a rise in mortgage interest costs which reflected earlier increases in interest rates on conventionally financed loans as well as the previously announced rate increase for VA-guaranteed loans (from 9.0 to 9.5).

Charges for other household services such as home maintenance and housekeeping services and utilities--gas, electricity, and telephone--also rose.

The index for medical care services rose 1.0 percent in September, compared with an average monthly increase of 1.5 percent from April to August.

Charges for auto repairs and other services such as dry cleaning, shoe repairs, and barber and beauty shop services continued to rise.

College tuition, which is priced for the CPI in September of each year, also rose.

# # #

Week of November 4, 1974

RETAIL GASOLINE PRICES - SEPTEMBER 1974

WASHINGTON -- Average prices of regular and premium gasoline, collected as part of the Consumer Price Index, declined 0.7 percent from August to September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported.

In September, the U.S. city average price for regular grade gasoline declined 0.7 percent to 55.0 cents per gallon. The average price for premium gasoline declined 0.6 percent to 58.7 cents per gallon.

Prices for both regular and premium gasoline declined for the second consecutive month.

Of the 23 metropolitan areas for which prices are published by the Bureau, prices for regular and premium gasoline declined in 21 areas in September, a more widespread decline than in August.

# # #

Dear Consumer

New Law Helps Home Buyers

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President
and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

If you're a consumer shopping for a home right now, you need all the help you can get. Luckily for you, a new Federal law may offer a good deal of help.

The Housing and Community Development Act, passed in August 1974, contains a number of provisions that should benefit home-hunting consumers. For instance:

- The limit on mortgages insured by Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has been increased to $45,000 from $33,000 for single-family homes.
- The limit on mortgage loans by savings and loan associations has been increased to $55,000 from $45,000.
- Down payment requirements for FHA-insured mortgages have been lowered. An FHA-insured mortgage on a $35,000 home, for example, now requires a $1,750 down payment (formerly $3,450).
- Discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited in home financing (and also in the sale and rental of homes). This means that lenders may not discriminate against single women in the granting of mortgages, and that they must consider the combined income of husband and wife when a couple applies for a mortgage.

There's also good news for home owners who want to stay put:

- The limit on FHA-insured home improvement loans has been increased to $10,000 from $5,000.

The law also contains provisions concerning mobile homes, rural housing and housing for the elderly. Detailed regulations based on the law are being prepared by Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A summary of the law is now available. For a free copy, write to Housing, Office of Consumer Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20201.

If you have questions, contact the nearest HUD field office, usually listed in the phone directory under "U.S. Government."

Week of November 4, 1974

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan is a member of President Ford's Council on Wage and Price Stability.

# # #

The number of employed adult women increased by 1.2 million between January and July 1974, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# # #

Although everybody will have to make sacrifices to control inflation, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan warned in his Labor Day 1974 statement that "we also must make sure that the working men and women of this country do not have to carry more than their fair share of the load in this effort."

# # #

Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan called free collective bargaining "the wellspring of America's industrial democracy" in his Labor Day 1974 statement.

# # #

The U.S. Labor Department's Consumer Price Index rose 11.8 percent in the 12 months ending in July 1974.

# # #